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Nation-wide Musical Contests Announced

AKRON, O., Nov. 13.—National contests for American composers, singers, pianists and violinists, in an effort to stimulate interest and to encourage better music are announced by the executive officers of the Federated Musical Clubs of America.

Prices ranging from \$100 to \$5000 will be given in the composers' contests.

Elimination contests will be held in every state and district for young professional singers, violinists and pianists. District winners will compete for national honors at the biennial session at Rock Island, Ill., in June, 1921. Winners of the national contests will be financed for a concert tour of the country.

A nation-wide campaign to encourage standardization and teaching of better music in public schools and elevation of the standard of music teaching will be launched.

SONG WRITER'S WIFE IS GRANTED DIVORCE

NEW YORK, Nov. 6.—It became known yesterday that an order of Justice Young was filed in the supreme court at White Plains Saturday, granting a final decree of divorce to Mrs. Hope L. Snyder from Theodore F. Snyder, a song writer of Manhattan. A movie actress was named as co-respondent.

Mrs. Snyder, screen character player, loved her husband's song, "Oh, What a Pal Was Mary," until she learned it was dedicated not to her, but to the other movie girl. Then she brought action for a divorce.

Mr. and Mrs. Snyder were married in New York on June 25, 1908, and have no children. Mrs. Snyder in her legal papers asserted her husband earned \$40,000 a year and asked

for \$100 a week alimony. Under the judgment she will receive \$50 a week. Mrs. Snyder produced evidence to show that while she was in California, her husband was with the actress, who is described in the papers only as "Marion" or "Marie," and that she posed as Mrs. Snyder. In 1914 Mrs. Snyder sued for a separation and was granted \$25 a week alimony. The couple lived apart previous to 1915.

CREW ORDERED TO BATHE. ALL GO OUT ON STRIKE

CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 15.—The crew of the Italian steamer Polaris were on strike upon the arrival of the ship here the other day because the health officers insisted that they should take a bath before landing, as steamer passengers must do. The crew refused to bathe unless first class passengers also were compelled to go swimming. The strike ended when first class passengers agreed to this.

FLORENCE EASTON WILL SING WITH ORCHESTRA

Florence Easton, the prima donna soprano of the Metropolitan Opera company who is now winning celebrity in her own right, will sing with the Seattle Grand Opera company on tour, has been engaged by the New York Symphony orchestra under Walter Damrosch as the first soloist of the season on Sunday afternoon, November 9.

NEW YORK GRAND OPERA WILL SING IN FRANCE

The New York Grand Opera company will give a season at the Champs Elysees theatre, Paris, in September and October, to be followed by another in the spring.



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OLD MUSICAL SHOW REVIVED

"Erminie," Famous Opera of Many Years Ago Produced Once More

The following article is from the New York Herald and was written in connection with the revival of that old favorite comic opera, "Erminie." The Casino, New York, has in its earlier days the credit of some sturdy youngsters who developed a longevity never prophesied for them in the days of their youth. Last spring, with a pulsing in the shape of an attractive Eleanor Painter and some rich dresses, the shubert revival that once popularized "Erminie" is to be produced. This time the heroine of "Erminie" can quite truthfully exclaim: "I am much older than I was when I first appeared on the stage." The heroine of the latter opera came several years earlier in the career of the Casino. Both works were important in the history of that playhouse and the New York stage as well.

It was "Erminie" that fixed the fame of Francis Wilson, for years afterward a favorite comedian. He was a star by and is now issuing from retirement to take part in the approaching revival. He will have another old favorite as his leading lady, Wolf Hopper, whose career in opera, long as it was, has never been identified with Jakobowski's work.

OTHERS NAMED IN "ERMINIE." Who remembers Jakobowski or any of his other works nowadays? Pauline Hall, who died last winter while playing the old comic opera favorite in "The Gold Diggers," was the heroine of the first production of "Erminie." It fixed her fame, too, in a way also, as she was a popular stage beauty for years afterwards. It is true, however, that great changes of every kind have come about in the actors in them better known than they ever were before.

Then Marie Jansen was in "Erminie" and William Daboll, whose tragedy is part of the legend which has grown up about the work to be almost forgotten until this performance was contemplated. Both of these singers made the long run of the piece at the Casino, appearing there until their popularity was finally exhausted. There were other actors between "Erminie" and "Erminie" that made any such record in sensational popularity. These two stand at the head of the old comedy revival of Pauline Hall, who died last winter while playing the old comic opera favorite in "The Gold Diggers," was the heroine of the first production of "Erminie." It fixed her fame, too, in a way also, as she was a popular stage beauty for years afterwards. It is true, however, that great changes of every kind have come about in the actors in them better known than they ever were before.

Later many a modest prima donna of a comic opera stock company had her chance to appear in the role in which she was famous. In the revival of "Erminie" she was one of the assistants to Mr. Wilson, and so was Thomas G. Scarborough in a revival of the old work, which was periodically heard in the theatres devoted to the theatre phyllophony of a score of years ago to "Combinations." Thus many comic opera singers of that period had the chance to sing in one role or another in "Erminie." But there never was an ambitious—that is the manager's famous phrase of the day—production of the work in which Francis Wilson was not the Caddy.

But there is always a degree of interest in exact names and dates. Rudolph Aronson was the director of the Casino when Jakobowski and Pauline Hall were sung there for the first time on May 10, 1887. Francis Wilson and Pauline Hall had been several years members of the company, singing there in operetta. So had Agnes Folsom, the original Javotte, for Marie Jansen, whose reputation was associated with this subterfuge part, did not take it on until the operetta had been running for some time. Then she introduced the song "The Afternoon at Four," which had not been sung by Mrs. Folsom.

FREEMAN WELL LIKED. Max Freeman was at that time well liked as a second comedian in operetta, and he had a part in the piece. So did Victoria Schilling, although she only led the chorus, and might not have done that but for the great puff of interest in the play of Victoria Morison—she was a daughter of the well known financier of that day—with her father's coachman, W. S. Daboll was little known in New York before he made a great success as the pal of Caddy Marion Manola, a young American from Ohio, who had been singing in London, made her first appearance at the Casino in the role, and so did her husband, Carl Irving, an English baritone. This first run of "Erminie" lasted until October. It was revived in November after the company returned from a short tour and sung until it had completed the number of 362 performances.

On January 16, 1888, it was again revived and sung 242 times. Already it had made a record of 774 times at the Casino, but was destined for still further performances there. On May 23, 1898, it again was sung at the Casino, with Francis Wilson and Pauline Hall of the original cast, and Henry E. Dixey with Mr. Wilson as the other two leads. It had had enough popularity to run into July. Later Lillian Russell sang the role of the heroine in a revival that also included Mr. Wilson.

SAYS ENGINEER CAB CARRIED MUCH LIQUOR. (By International News Service) DENVER—Alvin Pierce, Colorado and Southern Railroad engineer, operated a "booze special" between Cheyenne, Wyo., and Denver according to charges made by his wife in a divorce suit here. Mrs. Pierce declares that her husband stocked his engine cab with whiskey and made regular "bootleg trips" from the Wyoming capital to this city.

THOUGHT SPOONING MATCH WAS FREE-FOR-ALL FIGHT

(By International News Service) CHICAGO—Sentiment in a saloon has its drawbacks, two of which are brawling and brawling. Mrs. Eva E. Brown, aged twenty-three and twenty-one, and John J. Davis, of Kansas City, Missouri, are the principals of a case in point. They recently opened with Lieutenant Lutes and Gerriek a discussion of just how close ardent love may resemble a fight.

He tried to make love to us," declared one of the young ladies, after their arrest by Patrolmen Hayes and Anderson in a downtown buffet.

They were fighting, declared the bartender, who was on duty at the time. "It was a three-cornered mill, and it looked like they would wreck the place." Mrs. Gordon said that she and Miss Brown had been automobiling with Davis and three other men who left them earlier in the evening. They were drinking in a booth at the time Davis is said to have made ardent advances. The girls resented with accompanying damage to glassware about the buffet.

Molybdenum, which toughens steel and makes it more workable, is found in large quantities in the mountains of Colorado.

NEW STATE SEES VALUE OF MUSIC

Constitution of Fiume Sets Forth Attitude of People

The sixty-fourth section of the constitution of the new Free State of Fiume is devoted entirely to an explanation of the attitude of the state toward music. Are there any other constitutions in which music is so recognized? The article in question is published herewith. It is from a copy of the translation of the constitution furnished The Standard-Examiner by Whitney Warren of New York City.

Here is the section on music: "The Italian Republic of Fiume is a religious and social institution. Every thousand years or every two thousand years there springs from the depths of humanity a hymn that lives through the ages. A great race is not only that race which creates its god in its own image, but that race which also knows how to create its own hymn for its god. If every rebirth of a noble race is a lyric effort, if every unanimous and creative sentiment is a lyric power, if every action is an act of organization in the dynamic and impetuous sense of the word, music considered as a ritual language is the exalting motive of any action and of any creation in life.

"The advent of every great spiritual awakening always seems to be heralded by the expectation and anxious multitude through the medium of some overpowering musical masterpiece. The reign of the human spirit has not yet begun. When matter working upon matter shall be able to free men from the clutches of hell, then the spirit will begin to see the dawn of its liberty," so said a man from Dalmatia, the blind prophet of Sebenico. As the crowing of the cock invokes daylight, so does music invoke dawn, exalted aurora, and while music invades the instruments of labor, in gain and in play, and in the roaring machinery which also follows as exact a rhythm as does poetry. From its pauses is formed the silence of the tenth Corporation.

In all communes of the regency there will be formed choral and orchestral groups aided by state contribution. In the city of Fiume there has been intrusted to the Ediles the building of a rotunda capable of accommodating an audience of at least ten thousand, furnished with comfortable seats and a large pit for the orchestra and for the chorus. The big choral and orchestral celebrations are 'entirely free'—as the fathers of the church say about the grace of God."

VOICE OF CHILD WAS MARVELOUS

Discovery of Adelina Patti Described by Writer in Recent Book

Adelina Patti was an extraordinary singer at the age of seven, when she was able to go through with the most exacting operatic arias, says Herman Klein in "The Voice of Patti" (Century). Mr. Klein thus describes the discovery by the family that Adelina was a musical marvel.

"She was barely seven. Every member of the family and not a few of their friends knew that Adelina could sing; but what they did not know was that she could already, without having had a lesson in her life, sing like an artist."

"One day they thought they would make her go through a whole piece and in order to see her the better, they began without hesitation, not knowing the meaning of the word nervousness. They had no idea what she was going to sing. So they waited and waited, mingled with amusement, when she started the long sustained note and 'tun' that forms the initial phase of 'Casta Diva.' It was to be nothing less, if you please, than the most exacting aria—the noblest of Bellini's inspired melodies—the sublime prayer uttered by Norma just before she severs the sacred mallet from an oak with her golden sickle."

"Amusement at the little singer's daring quickly disappeared and left a feeling of amazement. For even those of her whose flesh and blood she was a part, who listened there unawakened in the main, strange intuition that enabled her to go through both verses of 'Casta Diva' wholly by ear and without a mistake. It is surprising that the good Salvatore di Camillo should have wept tears of joy over their darling bambino? If the father's eyes had not been opened before, they were now. Adelina was a prodigy and prodigies might help them out of their troubles."

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LEGION FAVORS NATIVE TALENT

Foreign Singers and Artists, Veterans Hold, Receive Undue Attention

AUSTIN, Texas, Nov. 12.—The creation of public opinion in favor of American singers and artists as opposed to foreigners is the plan of the American committee of the Texas department of the American legion following recent authorization from the legion state executive committee. Members of the committee assert that hundreds of American artists, equal if not superior to foreigners, are without engagement because they have plain American names, which apparently are not attractive to the music loving public. It is further stated that many American artists are forced to adopt foreign names in order to appear upon the American stage and that foreigners, whose ability is sometimes inferior to the Americans, draw much larger salaries.

The purpose of the American committee is to "acquaint the public with the folk of this discrimination" and to create a desire for more American singers and artists. The action was taken following an address to the committee by Miss Florence Voorhees, of New York, a representative of the Music League of America.

WARSAW HONORS WOMAN SOLDIER

Concerts of exercise singers and other American artists have been held under the auspices of the legion in Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Galveston and a number of smaller Texas cities.

WARSAW, Nov. 12.—(By the Associated Press)—All Warsaw turned out for the funeral the other day of Sergeant Sophie Potkowiak, a member of Poland's Women's Battalion, who was called here "the heroine of the Polesk." She died from wounds inflicted with a Russian sword and the "Nahalka" or Cossack's whip, which she received at Plock during the drive against Warsaw. As a final tribute the American nurses who attended her in the hospital and the entire personnel of the American Red Cross in Warsaw went to her funeral.

All Warsaw knew her story and there were many moist eyes that gazed at the plain painted pine board coffin containing the girl-soldier, as it was borne through the streets on the shoulders of her fighting comrades, all girls from the Women's battalion. An ancient Polish proverb says: "The Poland's great war which, in the minds of most Poles, began when the world war ended in November, 1918. She was 22 years of age and was one of the original members of the Women's battalion, which was formed late in 1918 for the purpose of defending Lemberg against the Ukrainians. She was wounded three times, first at Lemberg

again at Vilna and last while leading her company against the Russians at Plock."

She epitomized the spirit of Poland today. There are few like her in the Women's battalion. Officers in the army from the Pilsudski down admit that members of the Women's battalion executed a wonderful effort upon the Polish imagination, upon recruiting and even upon the soldiers in the recent heavy fighting.

The age limits for privates in the battalion are 17 and 25. Most of the women who have joined are of humble origin and come from semi-industrial centers such as Lodz. The economic problem has had something to do with their continued existence as soldiers, but they have shown great enthusiasm and bravery. They had many casualties.

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TOUGHEST CRIMINAL HANGED IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO—Chicago's "toughest guy" is dead. Frank Zagar, 22 years of age, effaced his debt to society at the end of a hangman's rope within the grim gray walls of Cook county jail.

During his last night on earth Zagar spurned his 12-year-old sister as she begged him for a kiss; jeered and reviled his gray-haired, careworn mother and cursed the priest who offered him spiritual consolation. He solemnly paced the floor of his cell until the time for his execution and then, with a defiant oath, walked into the death house.

Zagar was found guilty of shooting down two men in cold blood during hold-ups. "They didn't stick their hands up fast enough," he explained. Zagar bragged of his supercriminal career until the very last.

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